UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
53rd meeting
held on
Friday, 31 March 1995
at 6 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.53
5 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

95-80601 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 7.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 106: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993 (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.45)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.45

1. The CHAIRMAN said that draft decision A/C.5/49/L.45 was of a purely procedural nature, and invited the Committee to adopt it without a vote.

2. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.45 was adopted.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the item and requested the Rapporteur to submit his report direct to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 127: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.46)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.46

4. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia), who had coordinated the informal consultations on draft decision A/C.5/49/L.46, said that delegations had agreed to add a new paragraph (d), the text of which had been distributed to the Committee, and which read:

> "(d) Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda and to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda as at 30 March 1995, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 46,468,705 United States dollars to the Special Account for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, and urges all Member States concerned to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions promptly and in full;".

He then read out the other changes made to the draft decision: in the third line of the introductory paragraph, the phrase "which as of the date of adoption of the present decision has not been issued" should be inserted after the words "the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions". In addition, the amounts appearing in the second line of paragraph (a) should be modified to read "up to the amount of 80 million United States dollars gross (79,520,000 dollars net)". Also, in new paragraph (e), the amounts quoted should be modified to read "up to the amount of 19,558,000 dollars gross (19,204,000 dollars net)".

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the draft decision, as orally revised.

6. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.46, as orally revised, was adopted.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of the current stage of the item, and requested the Rapporteur to submit his report direct to the General Assembly.

8. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that his delegation, not wishing to obstruct the Committee's proceedings, had joined the compromise which had emerged on a text which was on the whole very close to the original. It was, however, regrettable that, since the report of the Advisory Committee had not been received in time, it had not been possible to follow the usual budgetary procedure. Delegations needed to be provided with the necessary documents promptly so that they could confer with their national authorities, especially in the case of decisions having financial implications.

9. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) regretted that it had been necessary yet again to take such an important decision in haste and without being provided with all the necessary information. She emphasized that decisions on the financing of peace-keeping missions such as the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) should be the first to be considered during the second part of the resumed session.

10. Mr. MADDEN (Belgium) concurred with the representatives of France and the United Kingdom, and requested that the subject of the financing of UNAMIR should be dealt with first when the Committee resumed its work.

11. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) asked whether the report of the Advisory Committee had not been issued at all or had not been issued in all the official languages.

12. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) said that the report of the Advisory Committee had not been submitted in time to be circulated to delegations before the current meeting. The report would, however, be issued in all the official languages on 4 April 1995.

13. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), replying to a question put by the United Kingdom delegation on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) said that, in its resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, the Security Council had authorized the establishment of a peace-keeping operation in Angola (UNAVEM III), with an initial mandate until 8 August 1995 and with a maximum deployment of 7,000 military personnel. The resolution specified, however, that the deployment of infantry units would take place only after the Secretary-General had reported to the Security Council that the conditions contained in his report had been met. The amount required for the full deployment of the Mission and the carrying out of its initial mandate was $80 million. General Assembly resolution 49/233, however, had set a limit of $50 million. Since the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/227, had already given commitment authority up to $10.5 million for the period from 9 February to 8 May 1995, should the Security Council extend the mandate of UNAVEM beyond 9 February 1995, the Secretariat had requested the Advisory Committee for commitment authority in the amount of $39.5 million, which it believed corresponded to the balance of the maximum amount authorized. The Advisory Committee had agreed to the amount requested for the period from 9 February to 30 April 1995 ($39.5 million), and to an additional amount of $10.5 million for

the period from 1 to 31 May 1995. If full deployment were delayed, the total amount authorized for the period from 9 February to 31 May ($60.5 million) would be sufficient to carry out the Mission until June, when the Fifth Committee would resume its work. However, if deployment were implemented in May as planned, the amount authorized would not be sufficient and it would be necessary for the Fifth Committee to take action in May or early June.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Revised estimates under sections 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 8, 15, 24 and 28 and income section I (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.38, L.48 and L.49)

Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38

14. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia) said that, after further consultations on draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38 and the proposed amendments thereto (A/C.5/49/L.48 and A/C.5/49/L.49), he was in a position to submit a revised version on behalf of the Group of African States. After the first two paragraphs of draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38, which would remain unchanged, the text of a new paragraph 3, the text of which appeared in document A/C.5/49/L.48, should be inserted; the former paragraph 3 would become paragraph 4 and a new paragraph 5 should be added which would read: "Decides that future requests for funding for regional institutes shall be considered only on the basis of criteria proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly to determine if such institutes should be funded from the regular budget."

15. Mrs. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that her delegation withdrew the amendment it had submitted in document A/C.5/49/L.49.

16. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38, as amended, without a vote.

17. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38, as amended, was adopted.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of the current stage of the item and requested the Rapporteur to report direct to the General Assembly.

19. Mr. DIMOV (Bulgaria), supported by Mr. MIHAI (Romania) and Mr. GOUMENNY (Ukraine), explaining his delegation's position on the decision which had just been adopted, said that, as stated by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 72 and 73 of his report (A/C.5/49/44), the volume and complexity of the work handled by the secretariats of the Security Council sanctions committees had continued to increase. By the decision which had just been taken, the Committee approved the retention of the posts which had been approved in 1994 in order to ensure the effective servicing of the sanctions committees. His delegation agreed to the retention of those posts, but was concerned by the mounting delays in the consideration of communications addressed to the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 724 (1992), which were seriously prejudicial to Bulgaria. That Committee should therefore be given the staff and equipment necessary to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively.

20. Mrs. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/49/44) gave rise to some difficulty for her delegation. In particular, she deplored the fact that some of those proposals had been implemented before the General Assembly had formally endorsed them.

21. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) said he regretted that the Committee had found it necessary to conduct long and costly consultations to arrive at an agreement on draft decision A/C.5/49/L.38. It was a paradox that the cost of those consultations had been greater than the amounts involved in the decision.

Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.41

22. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) recalled that, in its first report on the proposed programme budget (A/48/7, para. IV.18), the Advisory Committee had recommended that an analysis of the workload of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis was needed and that the six additional posts requested should not be established, since there was a possibility of redeploying existing posts. In section II, paragraph 22, of its resolution 48/228, the General Assembly had accepted the level of resources recommended by the Advisory Committee and requested the Secretary-General to provide adequate posts for activities dealing with micro-economic issues through redeployment. The Secretary-General had done that: six Professional posts and four General Service posts in the Department had been redeployed to those activities.

23. Since in the redeployment of the posts previously allocated to the apartheid programme it was important to take into account the skills and experience of the staff members involved, the Secretariat had proposed to redeploy them to programmes related to Africa. It intended, however, to continue to strengthen the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which would be submitted shortly, would contain specific proposals to that effect.

24. Mr. BOIN (France) said that, during the consultations, his delegation had rightly drawn attention to section II, paragraph 22, of resolution 48/228. He was pleased that the staff and resources of the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis would be strengthened, and awaited with interest the Secretariat's budget proposals. Consequently, on the basis of the assurances provided by the Controller, France was prepared to withdraw its proposal.

25. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.41 was withdrawn.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus completed its consideration of the item and requested the Rapporteur to report direct to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

(d) OTHER HUMAN RESOURCES QUESTIONS (continued)

Payment of repatriation grant to staff members living in their home country while stationed at duty stations located in another country (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.40/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.40/Rev.1

27. Mr. SHARP (Australia), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.40/Rev.1 on behalf of the Chairman, proposed that, in paragraph 3, after the words "expatriate benefits" the following phrase should be added: "to staff members living in their home country while stationed at duty stations located in another country".

28. Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the question and Judgement No. 656 of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, the General Assembly would reiterate its decision that the repatriation grant and other expatriate benefits should be limited to staff who both worked and resided in a country other than their home country; approve the amendments to the Staff Regulations contained in the annex to the draft resolution; and decide to re-examine the issue during its fifty-first session in the light of the report by the International Civil Service Commission requested in resolution 48/224.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.40/Rev.1 without a vote.

30. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.40/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus completed the current stage of its consideration of the question; he requested the Rapporteur to report direct thereon to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/49/16 (parts I and II); A/49/34, A/49/43, A/49/98 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2; A/49/301, A/49/336, A/49/368, A/49/418, A/49/423, A/49/449, A/49/471 and Corr.1, A/49/560, A/49/632, A/49/633; A/C.5/49/1 and A/C.5/49/28 and Add.1)

32. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) proposed that, since the consultations she had coordinated had not led to any progress on the matter, the consideration of agenda item 105 should be deferred.

33. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/49/6, in fascicle; A/49/16 (parts I and II), A/49/99 and Add.1, A/49/135 and Add.1, A/49/301; E/1994/4, E/1994/19; A/C.5/49/27 and Add.1 and A/C.5/49/28 and Add.1)

34. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) proposed that, since the consultations she had coordinated had not led to any progress on the matter, the consideration of agenda item 108 should be deferred.

35. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued) (A/49/7/Add.12, A/49/790; A/C.5/49/11, A/C.5/49/42 and A/C.5/49/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.44

36. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that it had not been possible to reach consensus on either the substance or the manner of approaching the question during the consultations she had coordinated concerning draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.44.

37. Mr. KEATING (New Zealand), whose delegation was the sponsor of the draft resolution, said that he still had hopes of reaching consensus. He proposed that the debate on agenda item 146 should be deferred for a week so as to continue informal consultations, which should make it possible to provide for the financing of the Tribunal without departing from the principle of taking decisions by consensus. The General Assembly would then need to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments to cover the operation of the Tribunal pending the adoption of a resolution.

38. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was very important that consensus should be reached on the matter; the Group of 77 and China were prepared to continue the consideration of the item. The deliberations could be extended, as long as the extension applied only to agenda item 146 and did not go beyond 7 April 1995.

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the debate on the question should be deferred for one week.

40. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that it appeared that there was a proposal to suspend deliberations. She requested clarification.

41. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that the decision should be deferred, but not the debate, which should continue.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that deferring the debate for one week meant deciding to resume it within eight days, in the hope that informal consultations would have been completed in the meantime.

43. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) asked whether that meant that the Committee would establish 7 April 1995 as the deadline for taking a decision.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that that was correct. He took it that the Committee wished to defer its consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.44.

45. It was so decided.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, decides to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the additional amount of $1,080,000 for the period 1 to 14 April 1995 to allow the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to continue its activities until 14 April 1995, without prejudice to any decisions that the Assembly might take with regard to the mode of financing of the Tribunal."

47. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.